John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



October 16, 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg President Rockefeller University New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Barbara McClintock has been nominated for a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellow Award. From the enclosed description of this program, you will note that we ask our nominators to submit names of individuals of especially creative accomplishment, regardless of age, affiliation or public recognition. Our hope is that these awards will free these persons from all obligation and permit them to make unlimited use of their talents.

We do not accept direct applications in this program. It is, therefore, especially important for our Selection Committee to be assisted by individuals qualified to give confidential evaluations of those under consideration. Would you give us your judgment of the achievements of Barbara McClintock and the extent of her originality and imaginativeness? What evidence is there of genuine creative ability? How would you compare the nominee's achievements and ongoing pursuits with others in the same or comparable fields who are at the same career stage?

Many more individuals will be nominated than can receive awards in this program. In your opinion, is Barbara McClintock possessed of truly exceptional qualifications for a Prize Fellow Award? Do you have suggestions of others who know her work who might serve as references?

Allow me to thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to give us.

Yours sincerely

Gerald Freund, Vice President Director, Prize Fellows Program

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